

of-course way, as merely personal, and, above
 all, as not
 warranting the slightest exhibition of rancor
 or bitterness.
 Among my best and closest friends are many
 Catholics.
 The respect and regard of those of my fellow-
 Americans
 who are Catholics are as dear to me as the
 respect and re-
 gard of those who are Protestants. On my
 journey through
 Africa I visited many Catholic as well as many
 Protestant
 missions, and I look forward to telling the
 people at home
 all that has been done by Protestants and
 Catholics
 alike, as I saw it, in the field of missionary
 endeavor. It
 would cause me a real pang to have anything
 said or done
 that would hurt or give pain to my friends,
 whatever their
 religious belief, but any merely personal
 considerations are
 of no consequence in this matter. The
 important considera-
 tion is the avoidance of harsh and bitter
 comment such as
 may excite mistrust and anger between and
 among good
 men. The more an American sees of other
 countries the
 more profound must be his feelings of
 gratitude that in his
 own land there is not merely complete
 toleration but the
 heartiest good will and sympathy between
 sincere and hon-
 est men of different faith—good will and
 sympathy so com-
 plete that in the inevitable daily relations of
 our American
 life Catholics and Protestants meet together
 and work to-
 gether without the thought of difference of
 creed being even
 present in their minds. This is a condition so
 vital to our
 National well-being that nothing should be
 permitted to

jeopard it. Bitter comment and criticism,
acrimonious at-
tack and defense, are not only profitless, but
harmful, and
to seize upon such an incident as this as an
occasion for
controversy would be wholly indefensible and
should be
frowned upon by Catholics and Protestants
alike. I very
earnestly hope that what I say will appeal to
all good
Americans. Faithfully yours,

THEODOKE

ROOSEVELT.

Lyman Abbott, Editor of *The Outlook*.

Meanwhile I had seen the three leading
representatives
of the Methodists, and had appealed to them
not to em-